Dear Howard, Rt. 12 now; 8/15/76

Now I can write you as earlier I could not because now I can offer money without dipping into what I've been able to put aside to pay the printer for Post Mortem. More than Post Mortem, however, is what I'm writing about.

I have just had confirmation of a deal on which I've been working. What is confirmed is a) the beginning, an inquiry into two potential stories for which I'll be paid a nominal sum if they do not go for the stories and more if they do; and b) potential ancillary rights to all of Post Mortem, only one documents from which is involved in this initial deal.

It is with the National Enquirer and fortunately, with people who are friends. It was swung by onenof the editors who had haped to get an okay to come himself. The bosses would not spare him so he was able to have a reporter who is a friend and has both some familiarity and some interest assigned to it. The reporter is coming on the first morning plane. He will be here until Monday. We'll be working hard all weekend so I'll be brief in order to get back to the work on which I'll again get farthur behind.

I can pay your expenses and I can pay whatever you would regard as a fair fee. I can do this from the escrow account into which we've been squirrelling every penny that we can from the sale of the older books. (We've paid everybody but this account off on Whitewash IV.) I know these people I'm dealing with and they'll see to it that the checks will come as fast as the bureaucracy will permit but it may not be by the time you could leave.

I've written you about the potential of this new offset process and my desire to have as large an appendix as possible. I have not told you the entire reason and I'll not now name a name.

As I edited the index I made notes of where I'll need to add footnotes, like on Hoover's death. Once there is decision on the appendix there should be a certain amount of footnoting, preferably both ways.

I'll want judgement on the appendix. If you come, as I hope, I'll have the addition completed by then and I'll have from Jim his recommendations on what to include of the court papers in 226-75, which is relevant, specifically and generally. We discussed this day before yesterday.

I'll want judgement on more than the appendix appendix. At the same time I'll want advice and recollection on a collection of documents for other purposes. If present plans hold you'll also be in on this in person. For obvious reasons this has to be entirely confidential.

Some time back I had a call from a Church committee staffer who is the designee of a particular Senator. I was asked to come in at a time when the Senator could also speak to me. We had separate and collective conversations after which that and another staffer were here and saw enough to persuade them that they are all for my plan: for this Senator to do what Baker did on Watergate, offer his own "report." Only honestly. The Church committee will not investigate the assassinations. The most it will do is say on the basis of this and that we think there should be a look-see. I don't remember whether I discussed this with the Senator but as of a couple of days ago when I was last phoned by the staffer the staffer was even more excited about the possibility. At the time of the meeting the Senator said he'd be coming up when he could. I had a note day before yesterday saying it looks like shortly after 9/1. So, separate from the appendix to PM I'll want a selection of documents that a Senator could use to recommend for the Church committee that there be a separate assassination investigation. If you haven't guessed I'll tell you when you come, as we both hope you do. (As soon as I told Lil after getting this call "Now I can pay Howard," she said "Good. That's when I'll go see your mother." Meaning she be less concerned about the way I'll eat only. And she won't stay there long anyway.) So, please let me know as soon as you can. If you come, unless you can use Lil's electric, please bring your own portable. If you do, please also give me the last day you can be here so I can plan. Hopefully,